

# *Documents on Diplomacy: Lessons*

## *Mandate from Civilization* *The Hay/Bunau-Varilla Treaty*

Standard: V. Individuals, Groups, and Institutions  
VI. Power, Authority, and Governance  
IX. Global Connections  
X. Civic Ideals and Practices

Grade Level: 9–12

Objectives: The student will:

- Analyze the articles of the Hay–Bunau–Varilla Treaty
- Relate the terms of the treaty to the countries involved
- Study efforts of individuals responsible for the creation of Panama Canal
- Interpret history through a choral reading

Time: 1 class period

Materials: Documents: **1903** *Hay/Bunau–Varilla Treaty*

Resources:

- *Biography of John Hay*  
<http://www.loc.gov/rr/hispanic/1898/hay.html>
- *Biography of Theodore Roosevelt*  
<http://www.theodoreroosevelt.org/life/biotr.htm>
- *Biography of Philippe Bunau–Varilla*  
[http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Philippe\\_Jean\\_Bunau-Varilla.aspx](http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Philippe_Jean_Bunau-Varilla.aspx)
- *Readings on the Panama Canal*  
<http://www.smplanet.com/imperialism/joining.html>  
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/tr/panama.html>

Exercises: *Lyrics: "We Made the Canal"*

Procedures:

1. Provide background information about the Panama Canal using the textbook or a selected reading. Discuss the steps leading to the Hay/Bunau–Varilla Treaty.
2. Divide class into three groups, assigning the roles of John Hay, Theodore Roosevelt, and Philippe Bunau-Varilla to each third.
3. Provide each group with a biography of its character. Students should work independently at this point. Read the biographies.
4. Distribute copies of the document, the *Hay/Bunau–Varilla Treaty*.

**5.** Have students move into their three groups based on earlier assignments. Note: If class is too large for three groups to discuss properly, create smaller groups and combine them later by roles to share their ideas.

**6.** Provide group members with the exercise, *Lyrics: "We Made the Canal."*

**7.** Instruct students that they are to use information gathered from their readings and the treaty to create lyrics for a "choral reading" with the title, "We Made the Canal..."

- a.** The chart provides statements that can be converted to lyrics.
- b.** Students should include additional information as well.
- c.** The John Hay group is responsible for at least 3 stanzas.
- d.** The Philippe Bunau-Varilla group is responsible for at least 3 stanzas.
- e.** The Theodore Roosevelt group is responsible for the refrain(s) that will be read/repeated after each stanza.

(Note: The stanzas and refrains should be informative, not professionally crafted masterpieces! The idea is for students to process the information they have learned.)

**8.** Allow approximately 15-20 minutes for groups to create the lyrics.

**9.** All groups should then stand with John Hay reading a stanza, then Philippe Bunau-Varilla and finally Theodore Roosevelt with the refrain. Follow this order until all stanzas and the last refrain are "read."

**10.** If an additional class period is needed to complete the "choral reading," have students select music to play in the background as they read.

**11.** Have students summarize the story of the Canal from inception through the Hay—Bunau—Varilla Treaty. Did the United States have a "mandate from civilization" to acquire, build, and use the Panama Canal? ■